

308 CONTROL DEVICES AND TECHNIQUES

308.1 PURPOSE AND SCOPE

This policy provides guidelines for the use and maintenance of control devices that are described in this policy.

308.2 POLICY

In order to control subjects who are violent or who demonstrate the intent to be violent, the Columbia Police Department authorizes officers to use control devices in accordance with the guidelines in this policy and the Response to resistance Policy.

308.3 ISSUANCE AND CARRYING CONTROL DEVICES

Control devices described in this policy may be carried and used in accordance with the response to resistance policy by members of this department only if the device has been issued by the Department or approved by the Chief of Police or the authorized designee.

Only officers who have successfully completed department-approved training in the use of any control device are authorized to carry and use the device.

308.4 RESPONSIBILITIES

308.4.2 QUARTERMASTER RESPONSIBILITIES

The Department Quartermaster shall control the inventory and issuance of all control devices, except CED devices, and shall ensure that all damaged, inoperative, outdated or expended control devices or munitions are properly disposed of, repaired or replaced.

Every control device will be periodically inspected by the Department Quartermaster or the designated instructor for a particular control device. The inspection shall be documented.

308.4.3 USER RESPONSIBILITIES

All normal maintenance, charging or cleaning shall remain the responsibility of personnel using the various devices.

Any damaged, inoperative, outdated or expended control devices or munitions, along with documentation explaining the cause of the damage, shall be returned to the Department Quartermaster for disposition. The Request for Equipment Form shall also be prepared and forwarded through the chain of command, when appropriate, explaining the cause of damage.

308.5 BATON GUIDELINES

The need to immediately control a suspect must be weighed against the risk of causing injury. The head, neck, throat, spine, heart, kidneys joints and groin should not be intentionally targeted except when the officer reasonably believes the suspect poses an imminent threat of serious bodily injury or death to the officer or others.

When carrying a baton, uniformed personnel shall carry the baton in its authorized holder on the equipment belt. Plainclothes and non-field personnel may carry the baton as authorized and in accordance with the needs of their assignment or at the direction of their supervisor.

308.6 TEAR GAS GUIDELINES

Tear gas may be used for crowd control, crowd dispersal or against barricaded suspects based on the circumstances. Tear gas shall only be used in accordance with established SWAT procedures and by such members who have successfully completed department approved training for its use. When practicable, fire personnel should be alerted or summoned to the scene prior to the deployment of tear gas to control any fires and to assist in providing medical aid or gas evacuation if needed.

308.7 OLEORESIN CAPSICUM (OC) GUIDELINES

308.7.1 OC SPRAY

Uniformed personnel carrying OC spray shall carry the device in its holster on the equipment belt. Plainclothes and non-field personnel may carry OC spray as authorized, in accordance with the needs of their assignment or at the direction of their supervisor.

308.7.3 TREATMENT FOR OC SPRAY EXPOSURE

Persons who have been sprayed with or otherwise affected by the use of OC should be promptly provided with clean water to cleanse the affected areas. Those persons who complain of further severe effects shall be examined by appropriate medical personnel.

308.8 KINETIC ENERGY PROJECTILE GUIDELINES

This department is committed to reducing the potential for violent confrontations. Kinetic energy projectiles, when used properly, are less likely to result in death or serious physical injury and can be used in an attempt to de-escalate a potentially deadly situation.

308.8.1 DEPLOYMENT

Only department-approved kinetic energy munitions shall be carried and deployed.

Officers are not required or compelled to use approved munitions in lieu of other reasonable tactics if the involved officer determines that deployment of these munitions cannot be done safely. The safety of hostages, innocent persons and officers takes priority over the safety of subjects engaged in criminal or suicidal behavior.

Circumstances appropriate for deployment include, but are not limited to, situations in which:

- a. The suspect is armed with a weapon and the tactical circumstances allow for the safe application of approved munitions.
- b. The suspect has made credible threats to harm him/herself or others.
- c. The suspect is engaged in riotous behavior or is throwing rocks, bottles or other dangerous projectiles at people and/or officers.
- d. There is probable cause to believe that the suspect has already committed a crime of violence and is refusing to comply with lawful orders.

308.8.2 DEPLOYMENT CONSIDERATIONS

Before discharging projectiles, the officer should consider such factors as:

- a. Distance and angle to target.
- b. Type of munitions employed.
- c. Type and thickness of subject's clothing.
- d. The subject's proximity to others.
- e. The location of the subject.
- f. Whether the subject's actions dictate the need for an immediate response and the use of control devices appears appropriate.

A verbal warning of the intended use of the device should precede its application, unless it would otherwise endanger the safety of officers or when it is not practicable due to the circumstances. The purpose of the warning is to give the individual a reasonable opportunity to voluntarily comply and to warn other officers and individuals that the device is being deployed.

Officers should keep in mind the manufacturer's recommendations and their training regarding deployment distances and target areas. However, officers are not restricted solely to use according to manufacturer recommendations. Each situation must be evaluated on the totality of circumstances at the time of deployment.

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The need to immediately incapacitate the subject must be weighed against the risk of causing serious injury or death. The head and neck should not be intentionally targeted, except when the officer reasonably believes the suspect poses an imminent threat of serious bodily injury or death to the officer or others.

308.8.3 SAFETY PROCEDURES

Shotguns designated for the use of kinetic energy projectiles will be specially marked as such.

Officers carrying these shotguns will inspect the shotgun at the beginning of each shift to ensure that it is in proper working order and loaded only with approved projectiles.

308.9 TRAINING FOR CONTROL DEVICES

The Training and Recruitment Sergeant shall ensure that all personnel who are authorized to carry a control device have been properly trained and certified to carry the specific control device and are retrained or recertified as necessary.

- a. Proficiency training shall be monitored and documented by a certified, control-device weapons or tactics instructor.
- b. All training and proficiency for control devices will be documented in the officer's training file.
- c. Officers who fail to demonstrate proficiency with the control device or knowledge of this agency's Response to resistance Policy will be provided remedial training. If an officer cannot demonstrate proficiency with a control device or knowledge of this agency's Response to resistance Policy after remedial training, the officer will be restricted from carrying the control device and may be subject to discipline.

308.10 REPORTING USE OF CONTROL DEVICES AND TECHNIQUES

Any application of a control device or technique listed in this policy shall be documented pursuant to the Response to resistance Policy.